

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 and 13 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please amend the claims as follows (all claims remaining in the application are listed below, with only those so indicated being amended):

1. Cancel claim 1.

2. (TWICE AMENDED) The operator unit according to claim 15, wherein the counterpart [means] device (3) is a card reader and said identification means is a card, said card reader and said card being structured such that said card reader can read said card with the card remaining attached to said operator.

3. (TWICE AMENDED) The operator unit according to claim [2]15, wherein the identification means (4) is a contacting identification device that can remain attached to said operator when said identification means is in said predetermined space, so that said identification means is automatically moved from said predetermined space when said operator leaves said operating field.

4. (TWICE AMENDED) The operator unit according to claim 3, wherein the contacting identification device (4) is one of a chip card [or] and a magnetic card.

5. (TWICE AMENDED) The operator unit according to claim 15, wherein the identification device (4.1) is an identification device which operates without contact and can remain attached to said operator when said identification means is in said predetermined space, whereby said identification means is automatically moved from said predetermined space when said operator leaves said operating field.

6. (TWICE AMENDED) The operator unit according to claim 5, wherein the identification device is one of a transceiver unit [or] and a transponder which works together with the counterpart device (3.1) of the identification system without contact.

7. (TWICE AMENDED) The operator unit according to claim 5, wherein [the] a non-contact link between the identification device (4.1) and the counterpart device (3.1) is maintained within a local area (N) proximate to said operating field.

8. (TWICE AMENDED) The operator unit according to claim 15, wherein the counterpart [means] device (3, 3.1) has a respective one of a read and[/or] write mode by means of which the identification device (4, 4.1) is respectively one of read from and[/or] written on with respective installation-[specific] and[/or] person-specific data.

9. (TWICE AMENDED) The operator unit according to claim 8, wherein there is a read mode by means of which the identification device is read from, and wherein [the] read data is recorded in various X-ray apparatus[es] and is caused to be combined and stored centrally [on or] by [means of] the identification device (4, 4.1).

10. (TWICE AMENDED) The operator unit according to claim 15, wherein the counterpart device (4, 4.1) is integrated into the operating field (2).

11. (TWICE AMENDED) The operator unit according to claim 15, wherein an individual [instrument] operator-unit setting [and/or keyboard management of keys (2.1) on the operating field (2)] is accomplished by means of the identification [device] means (4, 4.1), whereby the identification means of a first operator activates the operating unit to a different first mode of operation than would the identification means of the second operator.

12. (TWICE AMENDED) The operator unit according to claim 15, wherein the operator unit is cleared [and/or activated] by the identification device (4, 4.1) upon the operator unit entering the second different mode of operation upon the operator moving the identification means away from the predetermined space.

13. Cancel claim 13.

14. (TWICE AMENDED) The operator unit according to claim 15, wherein a live scanner (20) is also connected upstream from the identification system.

Please add the following new claim:

*Sub C3* → --15. An operator unit for an X-ray examining apparatus having a monitor for displaying an X-ray image for an operator, said operator unit comprising:

*B3* an operating field for being manipulated by the operator to operate the operating unit and thereby operate the X-ray examining apparatus and the monitor; and an identification system, said identification system including an identification means (4, 4.1) for being carried by the operator (6) and a counterpart device (3, 3.1) for being operatively coupled to said operating field, wherein said counterpart device is for activating said operating unit to a first mode of operation when the operator begins to operate the operating unit in at least partial response to information on said identification means read by said counterpart device, and for activating said operating unit to a second different mode of operation in at least partial response to information on said

identification means read by said counterpart device when said operator stops operating said X-ray examining apparatus.

16. An operator unit as in claim 15, wherein said counterpart device is for activating said operating unit to said first mode of operation in at least partial response to said operator carrying said identification means moving said identification means within a predetermined space relative to said counterpart device at which said operator carrying said identification means can manipulate said operating field and for activating said operating unit to said second different mode of operation in at least partial response to said operator moving said identification means away from said predetermined space.

17. An operator unit as in claim 16, wherein said identification means is for automatically activating said operating unit to said second different mode of operation in response to said operator moving said identification means away from said predetermined space. --